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Table 17. Antiretroviral Therapy-Associated Adverse Effects and Management Recommendations

#### 17a. Potentially Life-Threatening and Serious Adverse Events

| Adverse effects  | Causative<br>ARVs               | Onset/clinical manifestation  | Estimated frequency   | Risk Factors  | Prevention/<br>monitoring   | Management  |
|--|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | РОТ                             | ENTIALLY LIFE-THREA   | TENING ADV  | ERSE EFFECTS  | ÿ   | tical order)  |
| Hepatic<br>Events<br>(nevirapine-<br>associated<br>symptomatic<br>events,<br>including<br>hepatic<br>necrosis) | NVP                             | Onset: Greatest risk within 1st few weeks of therapy; can occur through 18 weeks  Symptoms: Abrupt onset of flulike symptoms (nausea, vomiting, myalgia, fatigue), abdominal pain, jaundice, or fever with or without skin rash; may progress to fulminant hepatic failure with encephalopathy  Approximately 1/2 of the cases have accompanying skin rash  Some may present as part of DRESS syndrome (drug rash with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms)  | Symptomatic hepatic events:  • 4% overall (2.5%-11% from different trials)  • In women - 11% in those w/ pre-NVP CD4 >250 cells/mm³ vs. 0.9% w/ CD4 <250 cells/mm³;  • In men - 6.3% w/ pre-NVP CD4 >400 cells/mm³ vs. 2.3% w/ CD4 <400 cells/mm³ | Higher CD4 T cell count at initiation (>250 cells/mm³ in women & >400 cells/mm³ in men) Female gender (including pregnant women) Levated ALT or AST at baseline; HBV and/or HCV co-infection; Alcoholic liver disease HIV (-) individuals when NVP is used for post-exposure prophylaxis High NVP concentration | Avoid initiation of NVP in women w/ CD4 >250 cells/mm³ or men w/ CD4 >400 cells/mm³ unless the benefit clearly outweighs the risk  Counsel pts re: signs & symptoms of hepatitis; stop NVP & seek medical attention if signs & symptoms of hepatitis, severe skin rash, or hypersensitivity reactions appear  Monitoring of ALT & AST (every 2 weeks x 1st month, then monthly x 3 months, then every 3 months Obtain AST & ALT in patients with rash  -2-week dose escalation may reduce incidence of hepatic events | Discontinue ARV including nevirapine (caution should be taken in discontinuation of 3TC, FTC, or TDF in HBV co-infected patients)     Discontinue all other hepatotoxic agents if possible     Rule out other causes of hepatitis     Aggressive supportive care as indicated  Note: Hepatic injury may progress despite treatment discontinuation. Careful monitoring should continue until symptom resolution.  Do not rechallenge patient with NVP  The safety of other NNRTIs (EFV or DLV) in patients who experienced significant hepatic event from NVP is unknown – use with caution.  |
| Lactic acidosis/ hepatic steatosis +/- pancreatitis (severe mitochondrial toxicities)                          | NRTIs,<br>esp. d4T,<br>ddI, ZDV | Onset: months after initiation of NRTIs  Symptoms:  Initial onset may be insidious with nonspecific gastrointestinal prodrome (nausea, anorexia, abdominal pain, vomiting), weight loss, and fatigue;  Subsequent symptoms may be rapidly progressive with tachycardia, tachypnea, hyperventilation, jaundice, muscular weakness, mental status changes, or respiratory distress  Some may present with multiorgan failure, such as fulminant hepatic failure, acute pancreatitis, encephalopathy, and respiratory failure  Laboratory findings: Increased lactate (often > 5 mmole)  Low arterial pH (some as low as < 7.0)  Low serum bicarbonate Increased anion gap Elevated serum transaminases, prothrombin time, bilirubin Low serum albumin Increase serum amylase & lipase in patients with pancreatitis Histologic findings of the liver — microvesicular or macrovesicular steatosis | Rare  One estimate 0.85 cases per 1000 patient- years  Mortality up to 50% in some case series, (esp. in patients with serum lactate > 10 mmole)  | •d4T + ddl •d4T, ZDV, ddl use (d4T most frequently implicated) •Long duration of NRTI use •Female gender •Obesity •Pregnancy (esp. with d4T+ddl) •ddl + hydroxyurea or ribavirin •High baseline body mass index   | Routine monitoring of lactic acid is generally not recommended; Consider obtaining lactate levels in patients with low serum bicarbonate or high anion gap and with complaints consistent with lactic acidosis; Appropriate phlebotomy technique for obtaining lactate level should be employed   | Discontinue all ARVs if this syndrome is highly suspected (diagnosis is established by clinical correlations, drug history, and lactate level) Symptomatic support with fluid hydration  Some patients may require IV bicarbonate infusion, hemodialysis or hemofiltration, parenteral nutrition or mechanical ventilation  IV thiamine and/or riboflavin – resulted in rapid resolution of hyperlactatemia in some case reports  Note: Interpretation of high lactate level should be done in the context of clinical findings. The implication of asymptomatic hyperlactatemia is unknown at this point  ARV treatment options:  May consider using NRTIs with less propensity of mitochondrial toxicities – (e.g., ABC, TDF, 3TC, FTC) – should not be introduced until lactate returns to normal.  Recommend close monitoring of serum lactate after restarting NRTIs  Some consider using NRTI-sparing regimens with PI + NNRTI +/- FI (e.g., IDV + EFV, LPV/r + EFV, etc) – efficacy and benefit of this type of regimen unknown, but currently under investigation |

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Table 17. Antiretroviral Therapy-Associated Adverse Effects and Management Recommendations

## 17a. Potentially Life-Threatening and Serious Adverse Events (continued)

| Adverse effects  | Causative<br>ARVs  | Onset/clinical manifestation  | Estimated frequency   | Risk Factors  | Prevention/<br>monitoring   | Management   |  |  |  |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| POTENTIALLY LIFE-THREATENING ADVERSE EFFECTS (Listed in alphabetical order)          |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Lactic acidosis/<br>Rapidly<br>progressive<br>ascending<br>neuromuscular<br>weakness | Most<br>frequently<br>implicated<br>ARV: d4T                                   | Onset: months after initiation of ARV; then dramatic motor weakness occurring within days to weeks  Symptom: very rapidly progressive ascending demyelinating polyneuropathy, may mimic Guillain-Barré  Syndrome; some patients may develop respiratory paralysis requiring mechanical ventilation; resulted in deaths in some patients  Laboratory findings may include:  Low arterial pH  Increased lactate  Low serum bicarbonate  Increased anion gap  Markedly increased creatine phosphokinase  | Rare  | Prolonged d4T use [found in 61 of 69 (88%) cases in one report]   | Early recognition<br>and discontinuation<br>of ARVs may avoid<br>further progression  | Discontinuation of ARVs     Supportive care, including mechanical ventilation if needed (as in cases of lactic acidosis listed previously)     Other measures attempted with variable successes: plasmapheresis, high dose corticosteroid, intravenous immunoglobulin, carnitine, acetylcarnitine      Recovery often takes months — ranging from complete recovery to substantial residual deficits      Symptoms may be irreversible in some patients  Do not rechallenge patient with offending agent   |  |  |  |
| Stevens-<br>Johnson<br>Syndrome<br>(SJS)/ Toxic<br>epidermal<br>necrosis (TEN)       | NVP > EFV, DLV; Also reported with: APV, f-APV, ABC, ZDV, ddI, IDV, LPV/r, ATV | Onset: first few days to weeks after initation of therapy  Symptoms: Cutaneous involvement:  •Skin eruption with mucosal ulcerations (may involve orogingival mucosa, conjunctiva, anogenital area);  •Can rapidly evolve with blister or bullae formation;  •May eventually evolve to epidermal detachment and/or necrosis  Systemic Symptoms: fever, tachycardia, malaise, myalgia, arthralgia  Complications: ↓ oral intake → fluid depletion; bacterial or fungal superinfection; multiorgan failure  | NVP: 0.3% to 1% DLV & EFV: 0.1%  1-2 case reports for ABC, f-APV, ddl, ZDV, IDV, LPV/r, ATV | NVP – Female,<br>Black, Asian,<br>Hispanic  | •2-week lead in period with 200mg once daily, then escalate to 200mg twice daily      •Educate patients to report symptoms as soon as they appear      •Avoid use of corticosteroid during NVP dose escalation – may increase incidence of rash | Discontinue all ARVs and any other possible agent(s) (e.g., cotrimoxazole) Aggressive symptomatic support may include: Intensive care support Aggressive local wound care (e.g., in a burn unit) Intravenous hydration Parenteral nutrition, if necessary Pain management Antipyretics Empiric broad-spectrum antimicrobial therapy if superinfection is suspected Controversial management strategies: Corticosteroid Intravenous immunoglobulin Do not rechallenge patient with offending agent It is unknown whether patients who experienced SJS while NNRTI are more susceptible to SJS from another NNRTI — most experts would suggest avoiding use of this class unless no other option available |  |  |  |
| Hypersensitivity reaction (HSR)  | ABC  | Onset of 1st reaction: median onset – 9 days; approximately 90% within 1st 6 weeks Onset of rechallenge reactions: within hours of rechallenge dose Symptoms: acute onset of symptoms (in descending frequency): high fever, diffuse skin rash, malaise, nausea, headache, myalgia, chills, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dyspnea, arthralgia, respiratory symptoms (pharyngitis, dyspnea/tachypnea) With continuation of ABC, symptoms may worsen to include: hypotension, respiratory distress, vascular collapse Rechallenge reactions: generally greater intensity than 1st reaction, can mimic anaphylaxis | Approximately 8% in clinical trial (2-9%); 5% in retrospective analysis                     | HLA-B*5701, HLA-DR7, HLA-DQ3 (from Australian data)     ARV-naïve patients     Higher incidence of grade 3 or 4 HSR with 600mg once daily dose than 300mg twice daily dose in one study (5% vs. 2%) | Educate patients about potential signs and symptoms of HSR and need for reporting of symptoms promptly     Wallet card with warning information for patients  | Discontinue ABC and other ARVs     Rule out other causes of symptoms     (e.g., intercurrent illnesses such as viral syndromes, and other causes of skin rash, etc)     Most signs and symptoms resolve 48 hours after discontinuation of ABC      More severe cases:     Symptomatic support – antipyretic, fluid resuscitation, pressure support (if necessary)      Do not rechallenge patients with ABC after suspected HSR  |  |  |  |

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Table 17. Antiretroviral Therapy-Associated Adverse Effects and Management Recommendations

### 17a. Potentially Life-Threatening and Serious Adverse Events (continued)

| Adverse effects  | Causative<br>ARVs  | Onset/clinical manifestation  | Estimated frequency   | Risk Factors   | Prevention/<br>monitoring  | Management  |  |  |  |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
|  | POTENTIALLY SERIOUS ADVERSE EFFECTS (listed in alphabetical order) |   |   |  |  |   |  |  |  |
| Bleeding<br>episodes –<br>increase in<br>hemophiliac<br>patients                                   | PIs  | Onset: few weeks  Symptoms: ↑ spontaneous bleeding tendency – in joints, muscles, soft tissues, and hematuria   | Frequency<br>unknown  | •PI use in<br>hemophiliac<br>patients  | Consider using NNRTI-based regimen Monitor for spontaneous bleeding  | May require increase use of Factor VIII products  |  |  |  |
| Bone marrow suppression  | ZDV  | Onset: few weeks to months  Laboratory abnormalities:  • Anemia  • Neutropenia  Symptoms: fatigue because of anemia; potential for increase bacterial infections because of neutropenia   | Anemia -1.1<br>to 4%<br>Neutropenia –<br>1.8-8%   | Advanced HIV High dose Pre-existing anemia or neutropenia; Concomitant use of bone marrow suppressants (such as cotrimoxazole, ribavirin, ganciclovir, etc.)   | Avoid use in patients at risk  Avoid other bone marrow suppressants if possible  Monitor CBC with differential at least every three months (more frequently in patients at risk)   | Switch to another NRTI if there is alternative option; Discontinue concomitant bone marrow suppressant if there is alternative option; otherwise: For neutropenia: Identify and treat other causes Consider treatment with filgrastim For anemia: Identify and treat other causes of anemia (if present) Blood transfusion if indicated Consider erythropoietin therapy   |  |  |  |
| Hepatotoxicity<br>(clinical<br>hepatitis or<br>asymptomatic<br>serum<br>transaminase<br>elevation) | All<br>NNRTIs;<br>All PIs;<br>All NRTIs                            | Onset: NNRTI – for NVP - 2/3 within 1st 12 weeks NRTI – over months to years PI – generally after weeks to months Symptoms/Findings: NNRTI – asymptomatic to non- specific symptoms such as anorexia, weight loss, or fatigue. Approximately ½ of patients with NVP-associated symptomatic hepatic events present with skin rash. NRTI – • ZDV, ddI, d4T - may cause hepatotoxicity associated with lactic acidosis with microvesicular or macrovesicular hepatic steatosis because of mitochondrial toxicity • 3TC, FTC, or tenofovir – HBV co-infected patients may develop severe hepatic flare when these drugs are withdrawn or when resistance develops. PI – • Clinical hepatitis & hepatic decompensation have been reported with TPV/RTV. Underlying liver disease increases risk. • Generally asymptomatic, some with anorexia, weight loss, jaundice, etc. | Varies with the different agents  | Hepatitis B or C coinfection     Alcoholism     Concomitant hepatotoxic drugs     For NVP-associated hepatic events – female w/ pre-NVP CD <sub>4</sub> >250cells/mm <sup>3</sup> or male w/ pre-NVP CD <sub>4</sub> >400cells/mm <sup>3</sup> | NVP – monitor liver associated enzymes at baseline, 2 & 4 weeks, then monthly for 1 <sup>st</sup> 3 months; then every 3 months step of the patients with moderate to severe hepatic insufficiency; for other patients follow "frequently" during treatment  Other agents: monitor liver-associated enzymes at least every 3-4 months or more frequently in patients at risk | Rule out other causes of hepatotoxicity – alcoholism, viral hepatitis, chronic HBV w/ 3TC, FTC or TDF withdrawal, or HBV resistance, etc.  For symptomatic patients:  Discontinue all ARV (with caution in patients with chronic HBV infection treated w/ 3TC, FTC and/or TDF) and other potential hepatotoxic agents  After symptoms subside & serum transaminases returned to normal, construct a new ARV regimen without the potential offending agent(s)  For asymptomatic patients:  If ALT > 5-10x ULN, some may consider discontinuing ARVs, others may continue therapy with close monitoring  After serum transaminases returned to normal, construct a new ARV regimen without the potential offending agent(s)  Note: Please refer to information regarding NVP-associated symptomatic hepatic events & NRTI-associated lactic acidosis with hepatic steatosis in this table |  |  |  |
| Nephrolithiasis/<br>urolithiasis/<br>crystalluria  | IDV –<br>most<br>frequent  | Onset: any time after beginning of therapy – especially at times of reduced fluid intake  Laboratory abnormalities: pyuria, hematuria, crystalluria; rarely – rise in serum creatinine & acute renal failure  Symptoms: flank pain and/or abdominal pain (can be severe), dysuria, frequency  | 12.4% of<br>nephrolithiasi<br>s reported in<br>clinical trials<br>(4.7% -34.4%<br>in different<br>trials) | ●History of nephrolithiasis ●Patients unable to maintain adequate fluid intake ●High peak IDV concentration ●↑ duration of exposure  | Drink at least 1.5 to 2 liters of non-caffeinated fluid (preferably water) per day     Increase fluid intake at first sign of darkened urine     Monitor urinalysis and serum creatinine every 3-6 months  | Increase hydration     Pain control     May consider switching to alternative agent or therapeutic drug monitoring if treatment option is limited     Stent placement may be required   |  |  |  |

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Table 17. Antiretroviral Therapy-Associated Adverse Effects and Management Recommendations

### 17a. Potentially Life-Threatening and Serious Adverse Events (continued)

| Adverse effects  | Causative<br>ARVs  | Onset/clinical manifestation   | Estimated frequency  | Risk Factors  | Prevention/<br>monitoring  | Management   |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| POTENTIALLY SERIOUS ADVERSE EFFECTS (listed in alphabetical order) |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nephrotoxicity   | IDV, potentially TDF   | Onset:  IDV – months after therapy  TDF – weeks to months after therapy  Laboratory and other findings:  IDV: ↑ serum creatinine, pyruria; hydronephrosis or renal atrophy  TDF: ↑ serum creatinine, proteinuria, hypophosphatemia, glycosuria, hypokalemia, non-anion gap metabolic acidosis  Symptoms:  IDV: asymptomatic; rarely develop to end stage renal disease  TDF: asymptomatic to signs of nephrogenic diabetes insipidus, Fanconi Syndrome   | Not known  | History of renal disease     Concommitant use of nephrotoxic drugs  | Avoid use of other nephrotoxic drugs     Adequate hydration if on IDV therapy     Monitor serum creatinine, urinalysis, serum potassium and phosphorus in patients at risk   | Stop offending agent, generally reversible     Supportive care     Electrolyte replacement as indicated  |  |  |  |
| Pancreatitis   | ddI alone;<br>ddI + d4T;<br>ddI +<br>hydroxyurea<br>(HU) or<br>ribavirin<br>(RBV);<br>3TC in<br>children | Onset: usually weeks to months  Laboratory abnormalities: increased serum amylase and lipase  Symptoms: post-prandial abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting   | ddI alone – 1-7%  ddI with HU - ↑ by 4-5 fold  ddI with RBV, d4T or TDF - ↑ frequency  3TC in children – early trials: 14-18%; later trial - <1%   | High intraceullar and/or serum ddI concentrations History of pancreatitis Alcoholism Hypertriglyceridemia Concomitant use of ddI with d4T, HU, or RBV Use of ddI + TDF without ddI dose reduction   | •ddI should not be used in patients with history of pancreatitis •Avoid concomitant use of ddI with d4T, HU or RBV •Reduce ddI dose when used with TDF •Monitoring of amylase/lipase in asymptomatic patients is generally not recommended   | Discontinue offending agent(s)     Symptomatic management of pancreatitis – bowel rest, IV hydration, pain control, then gradual resumption of oral intake     Parenteral nutrition may be necessary in patients with recurrent symptoms upon resumption of oral intake  |  |  |  |
| Skin rash  | NVP > EFV,<br>DLV; ABC,<br>APV, f-APV,<br>ATV,<br>TPV/RTV  | Onset: within first few days to weeks after initiation of therapy  Symptoms: most rashes are mild to moderate in nature; diffuse maculopapular rash with or without pruritus; severe rash, rash with fever or with mucus membrane involvement warrants immediate discontinuation of ARV  TPV-RTV - Rash accompanied by joint pain/ stiffness, throat tightness, or generalized pruritus have been reported.  Note: Please also see sections on Stevens-Johnson Syndrome & Systemic Hypersensitivity Reaction | All Grades (severe)  NVP:  14.8% (1.5% severe)  EFV:  26% (1% grades 3- 4)  DLV:  35.4% (4.4% grades 3-4)  ABC:  <5% in pts w/o HSR APV:  20-27% (1.0% grades 3-4)  f-APV:  19% (< 1% grades 3-4)  ATV:  21% (<1% severe)  TPV/RTV 14% female & 8-  10% male in Phase 2/3 trials;  33% in female HIV- subjects in Phase 1 study with ethinyl estradiol | NVP – female, Black, Asian, Hispanic  f-APV, APV, TPV – sulfonamide derivative – potential for cross hypersensitivity with other sulfa drugs  TPV – female gender associated with an increased frequency of skin rash associated with TPV  EFV – higher incidence in children | NVP – always use a 2-week low dose lead-in period  Avoid use of corticosteroid during NVP dose escalation – may increase incidence of rash  Patient education – advise to report first sign of rash  Most experts suggest avoidance of EFV or DLV in patients with history of severe rash from NVP, and vice versa | Mild to moderate rash may be managed by symptomatic treatment with antihistamine and continuation of offending agent  Discontinue therapy if skin rash progresses to severe in nature (accompanied by blisters, fever, mucous membrane involvement, conjunctivitis, edema, or arthralgias) or in presence of systemic symptoms (including fever)  Do not restart offending medication in case of severe rash  If rash develops during first 18 weeks of NVP treatment — obtain serum transaminases to rule out symptomatic hepatic event |  |  |  |

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Table 17. Antiretroviral Therapy-Associated Adverse Effects and Management Recommendations

## 17b. Adverse Events With Potential Long-Term Complications (listed in alphabetical order)

| Adverse effects                                | Causative<br>ARVs   | Onset/clinical manifestation   | Estimated frequency  | Risk Factors  | Prevention/<br>monitoring  | Management  |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| Cardiovascular<br>effects                      | Possibly<br>all PIs;<br>maybe<br>except<br>for ATV                    | Onset: months to years after beginning of therapy  Presentation: premature coronary artery disease   | 3-6 per 1000/pt<br>years   | Other risk factors<br>for cardiovascular<br>disease such as<br>smoking, age,<br>hyperlipidemia,<br>hypertension,<br>diabetes mellitus,<br>family history of<br>premature<br>coronary artery<br>disease and<br>personal history of<br>coronary artery<br>disease | Assess each patient's cardiac risk factors Consider non-PI based regimen Monitor & identify pts w/ hyperlipidemia or hyperglycemia Counseling for life style modification - smoking cessation, diet, and exercise  | Early diagnosis, prevention, and pharmacologic management of other cardiovascular risk factors such as hyperlipidemia, hypertension, and insulinresistance/diabetes mellitus     Assess cardiac risk factors     Lifestyle modifications: diet, exercise, and/or smoking cessation     Switch to agents with less propensity for increasing cardiovascular risk factors, ie NNRTI- or ATV-based regimen & avoid d4T use   |
| Hyperlipidemia                                 | All PIs<br>(except<br>ATV);<br>d4T;<br>EFV (to<br>a lesser<br>extent) | Onset: weeks to months after beginning of therapy  Presentation: All PIs except ATV → in LDL & total cholesterol (TC) & triglyceride (TG), ✓ in HDL LPV/r & RTV — disproportionate ↑ in TG  d4T — mostly ↑ in TG; may also have ↑ in LDL & total cholesterol (TC)  EFV or NVP: ↑ in HDL, slight ↑ TG | Varies with different agents; 47% -75% of pts receiving PI in some clinics; Swiss Cohort: ↑TC & TG – 1.7-2.3x higher in pts receiving (non-ATV) PI | Underlying hyperlipidemia     Risk based on ARV therapy     PI:     LPV/r & RTV > NFV & APV > IDV & SQV > ATV;     NNRTI: less than PIs;     NRTI: d4T > ZDV & TDF  | Use non-PI, non-d4T based regimen     Use ATV-based regimen     Fasting lipid profile at baseline, 3-6 months after starting new regimen, then annually or more frequently if indicated (in high risk patients, or patients with abnormal baseline levels) | Follow ACTG guidelines's recommendations for management [308]     Assess cardiac risk factor     Lifestyle modification: diet, exercise, and/or smoking cessation     Switching to agents with less propensity for causing hyperlipidemia  Pharmacologic Management:     ↑ total cholesterol, LDL, TG 200-500 mg/dL: "statins" – pravastatin or atorvastatin (See Tables 19 & 20 for Drug Interaction information)     TG > 500 mg/dL – gemfibrozil or micronized fenofibrate |
| Insulin<br>resistance/<br>Diabetes<br>mellitus | All PIs   | Onset: weeks to months after beginning of therapy  Presentation: Polyuria, polydipsia, polyphagia, fatigue, weakness; exacerbation of hyperglycemia in patients with underlying diabetes   | Up to 3-5% of patients developed diabetes in some series   | Underlying<br>hyperglycemia,<br>family history of<br>diabetes mellitus  | •Use PI-sparing regimens •Fasting blood glucose 1-3 months after starting new regimen, then at least every 3-6 months  | Diet and exercise     Consider switching to an NNRTI-based regimen     Metformin     "glitazones"     Sulfonylurea     Insulin  |
| Osteonecrosis                                  | All PIs   | Clinical Presentation (generally similar to non-HIV population):  Insidious in onset, with subtle symptoms of mild to moderate periarticular pain  Soft the cases involving one or both femoral heads, but other bones may also be affected  Pain may be triggered by weight bearing or movement     | Reported incidence on the rise.  Symptomatic osteonecrosis: 0.08% to 1.33%;  Asymptomatic osteonecrosis: 4% from MRI reports                       | Diabetes     Prior steroid use     Old age     Alcohol use     Hyperlipidemia     Role of ARVs and osteonecrosis — still controversial  | Risk reduction (e.g., limit steroid and alcohol use)  Asymptomatic cases w/ < 15% bony head involvement – follow with MRI every 3-6 months x 1 yr, then every 6 mon x 1 yr, then annually – to assess for disease progression                              | Conservative management:  ■ weight bearing on affected joint;  ■ Remove or reduce risk factors  ■ Analgesics as needed Surgical Intervention:  ■ Core decompression +/- bone grafting - for early stages of disease  ■ For more severe and debilitating disease  — total joint arthroplasty   |

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Table 17. Antiretroviral Therapy Associated Adverse Effects and Management Recommendations

# 17c. Adverse Effects Compromising Quality of Life and/or With Potential Impact on Medication Adherence (listed in alphabetical order)

| Adverse effects                      | Causative<br>ARVs    | Onset/clinical manifestation  | Estimated frequency  | Risk Factors  | Prevention/<br>monitoring  | Management  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| Central nervous<br>system effects    | EFV                  | Onset: begin with first few doses Symptoms: may include one or more of the following: drowsiness, somnolence, insomnia, abnormal dreams, dizziness, impaired concentration & attention span, depression, hallucination; exacerbation of psychiatric disorders; psychosis; suicidal ideation Most symptoms subside or diminish after 2-4 weeks   | > 50% of<br>patients may<br>have some<br>symptoms  | Pre-existing or<br>unstable psychiatric<br>illnesses;     Use of concomitant<br>drugs with CNS<br>effects   | Take at bedtime or 2-3 hours before bedtime;  Take on an empty stomach to reduce drug concentration & CNS effects  Warn patients regarding restriction of risky activities – such as operating heavy machinery during the 1st 2-4 weeks of therapy | Symptoms usually diminish or disappear after 2-4 weeks     May consider discontinuing therapy if symptoms persist and cause significant impairment in daily function or exacerbation of psychiatric illness   |
| Fat<br>maldistribution               | PIs, d4T             | Onset: gradual - months after initiation of therapy  Symptoms:  •Lipoatrophy – peripheral fat loss manifested as facial thinning, thinning of extremities and buttocks (d4T)  •Increase in abdominal girth, breast size, and dorsocervical fat pad (buffalo hump)   | High – exact<br>frequency<br>uncertain;<br>increases with<br>duration on<br>offending<br>agents  | Lipoatrophy – low<br>baseline body mass<br>index  | None to date   | Switching to other agents – may slow or halt progression, however, may not reverse effects     Injectable poly-L-lactic acid for treatment of facial lipoatrophy  |
| Gastrointestinal<br>(GI) intolerance | All PIs,<br>ZDV, ddI | Onset: Begin within first doses  Symptoms:  Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain – all listed agents  Diarrhea – commonly seen with NFV, LPV/r, & ddI buffered formulations   | Varies with<br>different<br>agents   | All patients  | Taking with food may reduce symptoms (not recommended for ddI or unboosted IDV)     Some patients may require antiemetics or antidiarrheals preemptively to reduce symptoms  | May spontaneously resolve or become tolerable with time; if not:  For nausea & vomiting, consider:  • Antiemetic prior to dosing • Switch to less emetogenic ARV  For diarrhea, consider:  • Antimotility agents – such as loperamide, diphenoxylate/atropine • Calcium tablets • Bulk-forming agents, such as psyllium products • Pancreatic enzymes In case of severe GI loss: • Rehydration & electrolyte replacement as indicated |
| Injection site reactions             | Enfuvirtide          | Onset: Within first few doses  Symptoms: pain, pruritus, erythema, ecchymosis, warmth, nodules, rarely injection site infection   | 98%  | All patients  | Educate patients regarding use of sterile technique, ensure solution at room temperature before injection, rotate injection sites, avoid injection into sites with little subcutaneous fat or sites of existing or previous reactions              | Massaging area after injection may reduce pain     Wear loose clothing – especially around the injection site areas or areas of previous reactions     Rarely, warm compact or analgesics may be necessary  |
| Peripheral<br>neuropathy             | ddI, d4T,<br>ddC     | Onset: weeks to months after initiation of therapy (may be sooner in patients with pre-existing neuropathy)  Symptoms:  Begins with numbness & paresthesia of toes and feet;  May progress to painful neuropathy of feet and calf;  Upper extremities less frequently involved  Can be debilitating for some patients.  May be irreversible despite discontinuation of offending agent(s) | ddI: 12-34% in clinical trials  d4T: 52% in monotherapy trial  ddC: 22-35% in clinical trials  Incidence increases with prolonged exposure | Pre-existing peripheral neuropathy; Combined use of these NRTIs or concomitant use of other drugs which may cause neuropathy Advanced HIV disease High dose or concomitant use of drugs which may increase ddl intracellular activities (e.g., HU or RBV) | Avoid using these agents in patients at risk – if possible      Avoid combined use of these agents      Patient query at each encounter  | May consider discontinuing offending agent before pain becomes disabling – may halt further progression, but symptoms maybe irreversible Pharmacological management (with variable successes):      Gabapentin (most experience), tricyclic antidepressants, lamotrigine, oxycarbamazepine (potential for CYP interactions), topiramate, tramadol     Narcotic analgesics     Capsaicin cream     Topical lidocaine                   |